UNITED
NATIONS

E

Economic and Social
Council

GENERAL

E/ECE/1222
30 March 1990

Original: ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

Forty-fifth session
(Provisional Agenda item 8)

PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 1990-1994

Note by the Executive Secretary

1. The draft programme of work of the Commission for 1990-1994 is submitted (in Annex I) for the Commission's consideration and approval pursuant to operative paragraph 5(a) of its resolution 5 (XXIV).

2. The amendments to the programme of work approved by the Commission at its forty-fifth session will be incorporated by the secretariat in the text which will appear as Annex IV to the Commission's Annual Report to the Economic and Social Council.

3. In the case of the programme of work of the Commission itself (programme category 01), a draft has been prepared containing detailed descriptions of the programme elements, since this programme category is subject to review by the Commission itself (Annex II). In certain cases these descriptions will have to be completed by the Executive Secretary after the forty-fifth session of the Commission in order to reflect the relevant resolutions and other decisions which will be adopted at that session. Such programme elements are annotated: "To be completed as may be necessary".

4. In the framework of the procedures for prior consultation with the organizations of the United Nations system pursuant to Council resolution 1549 (XLIX), and in order to avoid any unnecessary duplication of work, the Executive Secretary has offered his comments, as in the past, to the executive

heads of those organizations who have transmitted to him their programmes of work. An account of the co-operation which has taken place during the past year between the ECE secretariat and the secretariats of the specialized agencies and of other international organizations is given in the Executive Secretary's note E/ECE/1202.

5. With regard to the ECE pattern of meetings, the General Assembly in its resolution 44/196 approved the Calendar of Conferences and Meetings for 1990, which contains provision for the holding of the forty-fifth session of the Commission in April 1990. The following tentative schedule for the regular meetings of its Principal Subsidiary Bodies has been established, in accordance with the decisions taken by those bodies, for the period between the forty-fifth and forty-sixth sessions of the Commission.

Senior Economic Advisers to ECE Governments	28 May-1 June	1990
Conference of European Statisticians	11-15 June	
Committee on Housing, Building and Planning	11-14 September	
Senior Advisers to ECE Governments on Science and Technology	17-21 September	
Coal Committee	25-28 September	
Chemical Industry Committee	3-5 October	
Timber Committee	8-12 October	
Steel Committee	24-26 October	
Senior Advisers to ECE Governments on Energy	29 October-1 November	
Committee on the Development of Trade	3-7 December	
Committee on Gas	21-24 January	1991
Inland Transport Committee	28 January-1 February	
Committee on Electric Power	4-7 February	
Senior Advisers to ECE Governments on Environmental and Water Problems	25 February-1 March	
Committee on Agricultural Problems	4-7 March	

Meetings and study tours

6. In 1989 the ECE held a total of 754 half-days of meetings serviced by the United Nations, of which 95 were held outside Geneva and 20 were for meetings of ECOSOC bodies on the transport of dangerous goods. In addition 101 half-days of meetings were held outside Geneva with services provided by the host authorities.

7. The meetings held outside Geneva in 1989 under the auspices of the Commission took place at the invitation of the Governments of the following countries: Austria (1); Belgium (2); Bulgaria (1); Czechoslovakia (3); Finland (2); France (4); Germany, Federal Republic of (2); Hungary (3); Italy (1); Netherlands (4); Poland (2); Portugal (2); Spain (1); Sweden (2); Switzerland (1); Turkey (2); United Kingdom (1).

8. The Commission may wish to bear in mind that such meetings are organized only if the subsidiary body concerned has accepted an invitation extended by the host Government and that this decision is clearly reflected in the report of the body concerned. Moreover, the host Government is obliged, pursuant to

General Assembly resolution 31/140 (I), to bear the additional costs of meetings attributable to the venue being away from the Commission's headquarters.

9. Study tours were organized during 1989 in each of the following countries: Finland; France; Hungary; Italy; Poland; Spain; and Switzerland.

10. During 1989 41 non-member countries attended one or more ECE meetings, spread over all sectors of the programme of work, under the provisions of article 11 of the Commission's terms of reference.

Documentation

11. The following data (in terms of pages reproduced in the three working languages of the Commission) have been compiled and supplied by the Statistical Unit of the Editorial and Documents Control Section of the United Nations Office at Geneva. For purposes of comparison, the equivalent figures for the period 1980-1989 have been provided:

Year	Total physical pages reproduced in English, French and Russian
1980	94,758
1981	97,568
1982	103,422
1983	100,033
1984	97,537
1985	106,748
1986	98,504
1987	88,383
1988	84,365
1989	85,899

The figure for 1989 represents a reduction of 19.5% over 1985.

12. Sales of ECE publications generated a gross income of over $500,000 in 1989.

ANNEX I

DRAFT PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR 1990-1994

Introduction

The programme of work is divided into the following programme categories:

01 - Policy and co-ordination of the work of the Commission

- 01 (a) - Engineering industries and automation
- 01 (b) - General energy
- 01 (c) - Standardization and related activities

02 - Agriculture

03 - Chemicals

04 - Coal

05 - Environmental and Water Problems

06 - Electric Power

07 - Gas

08 - Housing, Building and Planning

09 - Inland transport

10 - Science and technology

11 - Economic plans, programmes and perspectives

12 - Statistics

13 - Steel

14 - Timber

15 - Trade

READEX

PROGRAMME 01 - POLICY AND CO-ORDINATION OF THE WORK OF THE COMMISSION AS A WHOLE

[See Annex II]

PROGRAMME 01(a) - ENGINEERING INDUSTRIES AND AUTOMATION

Authority: Programme of work of the Working Party on Engineering Industries and Automation, approved by the Working Party at its tenth session (ECE/ENG.AUT/42, paras. 51-52 and Annex I)

Sub-programme 01(a).1: Medium- and long-term trends and prospects in engineering industries and automation

Programme elements

01(a).1.1 Medium- and long-term assessment of engineering industries within national, regional and global economies

Sub-programme 01(a).2: Current developments and prospects in the engineering industries and automation, including appropriate aspects of international trade

Programme elements

01(a).2.1 Current developments and prospects in the engineering industries and automation, including appropriate aspects of international trade in this sector

Sub-programme 01(a).3: Selected issues in the engineering industries and in automation

Programme elements

01(a).3.1 Food-processing machinery including packaging techniques
01(a).3.2 Rehabilitation engineering
01(a).3.3 New materials and their application in engineering industries

Sub-programme 01(a).4: Environmental and resource-saving problems

Programme elements

01(a).4.1 Air pollution control in engineering industries
01(a).4.2 Low-waste technologies in engineering industries

Sub-programme 01(a).5: Statistics in engineering industries and automation

Programme elements

01(a).5.1 Development of internationally comparable statistics
01(a).5.2 Publication of the Bulletin of Statistics on World Trade in Engineering Products

PROGRAMME 01(b) - GENERAL ENERGY

Authority: Programme of work of the Senior Advisers to ECE Governments on Energy, approved by the Senior Advisers at their sixth session (ECE/ENERGY/13, paras. 33-37 and Annex I)

Sub-programme 01(b).1: Energy programmes, policies and prospects

Programme elements

01(b).1.1 National energy programmes, policies and prospects
01(b).1.2 Selected general energy issues
01(b).1.3 Overview of energy activities in ECE

Sub-programme 01(b).2: Energy demand and supply

Programme elements

01(b).2.1 Significant new developments affecting energy demand and supply in the short and medium run
01(b).2.2 New and renewable sources of energy
01(b).2.3 End-use demand analysis, prospects and policies

Sub-programme 01(b).3: Energy trade and co-operation

Programme elements

01(b).3.1 Developments, policies and prospects of energy trade and co-operation
01(b).3.2 Identification and analysis of energy projects suitable for international co-operation

Sub-programme 01(b).4 Energy conservation

Programme elements

01(b).4.1 Energy conservation developments, policies and prospects in the region
01(b).4.2 Specific measures for energy conservation

Sub-programme 01(b).5: General energy statistics

Programme elements

01(b).5.1 Support for the publication of the Annual Bulletin of General Energy Statistics for Europe
01(b).5.2 Comprehensive ECE energy demand/supply balances for past and future years, and ECE energy data bank

PROGRAMME 01(c) - STANDARDIZATION AND RELATED ACTIVITIES

Authority: Programme of work of the Meetings of Government Officials Responsible for Standardization Policies, approved by the Tenth Meeting of Government Officials (ECE/STAND/30, paras. 46-51 and Annex).

Sub-programme 01(c).1: Co-ordination

Programme elements

01(c).1.1	Identification of problems
01(c).1.2	Regular guidance for programmes of work for international standardization through identification of sectors which are of interest to member Governments
01(c).1.3	Preparation and implementation of recommendations

Sub-programme 01(c).2: Harmonization

Programme elements

01(c).2.1	Review of developments, prospects and problems at the international, regional and national levels
01(c).2.2	Measures to facilitate the implementation of standards and technical regulations
01(c).2.3	Approval of definitions of terms used internationally in the fields of standardization and related activities
01(c).2.4	Presentation of ECE recommended standards and harmonized technical regulations
01(c).2.5	Preparation and implementation of recommendations

Sub-programme 01(c).3: Certification

Programme elements

01(c).3.1	Identification of problems
01(c).3.2	Collection and dissemination of information on international, regional and national certification activities and agreements
01(c).3.3	Measures to achieve mutual confidence in the technical competence and reliability of national certification systems
01(c).3.4	Promotion of international certification systems and arrangements

Sub-programme 01(c).4: Testing

Programme elements

01(c).4.1	Collection and dissemination of information on international, regional and national systems and arrangements on testing, laboratory accreditation and recognition of test results
01(c).4.2	Establishment of normative documents related to testing activities and laboratory accreditation
01(c).4.3	Identification of sectors which could lend themselves to priority preparation of multilateral or bilateral agreements for the recognition of test results and of recommendations to that effect to interested Governments and bodies
01(c).4.4	Aspects of metrology relevant to testing activities

PROGRAMME 02 - AGRICULTURE

Authority: Programme of work of the Committee on Agricultural Problems, approved by the Committee at its forty-first session (ECE/AGRI 107, paras. 75-77 and Annex I)

Sub-programme 02.1: Medium- and long-term trends and prospects in agriculture

Programme elements

02.1.1 Periodic review of selected long-term developments in agriculture

Sub-programme 02.2: Current developments and short-term prospects in agriculture, including international trade

Programme elements

02.2.1 Review of current developments in agricultural markets and trade
02.2.2 Commodity reports of special interest to the member countries which are developing from the economic point of view
02.2.3 Standardization in the food and agriculture sector
02.2.4 Product quality in the agri-food sector

Sub-programme 02.3: Economic and technological issues in agriculture

Programme elements

02.3.1 Agrarian structure and farm rationalization
02.3.2 Agricultural mechanization
02.3.3 Land use, soil fertility, water and crops
02.3.4 Animal husbandry and feedingstuffs
02.3.5 Agriculture and environment

Sub-programme 02.4: Marketing and processing issues of agricultural produce and their influence on agriculture

Programme elements

02.4.1 Marketing of agricultural products
02.4.2 Processing of agricultural products

Sub-programme 02.5: Food and agricultural statistics

Programme element

02.5.1 Harmonization of food and agricultural statistics

PROGRAMME 03 - CHEMICALS

Authority: Programme of work of the Chemical Industry Committee, approved by the Committee at its twenty-second session (ECE/CHEM/74, paras. 49-54 and Annex I).

Sub-programme 03.1: Long- and medium-term trends and prospects in the chemical industry

Currently no programme elements under this sub-programme

Sub-programme 03.2: Current developments and prospects in the chemical industry, including international trade

Programme elements

03.2.1 Annual Review of the Chemical Industry
03.2.2 Market trends and outlook for selected chemical products
03.2.3 Studies of national developments in the chemical industry

Sub-programme 03.3: Economic and technological issues in the chemical industry

Programme elements

03.3.1 Substitutes for tripolyphosphate in detergents
03.3.2 Engineering plastics
03.3.3 Possibilities and limitations of east-west joint ventures in the chemical industry

Sub-programme 03.4: Environmental and resource issues in the chemical industry

Programme elements

03.4.1 The rational use of water and its treatment in the chemical industry
03.4.2 The role of the chemical industry in environmental protection
03.4.3 Recycling of plastics in ECE member countries

Sub-programme 03.5: Statistics and information on the chemical industry

Programme elements

03.5.1 Development of internationally comparable statistics, including those of specialized products
03.5.2 Publication of the Bulletin of Trade in Chemical Products

PROGRAMME 04 - COAL

Authority: Programme of work of the Coal Committee, approved by the Committee at its eighty-fifth session (ECE/COAL/119, paras. 57-62 and Annex I).

Sub-programme 04.1: Medium and long-term prospects

Programme elements

- 04.1.1 Prospects for the coal industry in the ECE region
- 04.1.2 World coal trade up to the year 2000, including the prospects for coking coal

Sub-programme 04.2: Current developments, including international coal trade and statistics

Programme elements

- 04.2.1 Review of short-term fluctuations in the demand for and supply of solid fuels
- 04.2.2 Examination of draught survey techniques and equipment specification for determining the weight of bulk coal cargoes
- 04.2.3 Annual Bulletin of Coal Statistics for Europe
- 04.2.4 Capital formation, costs of production and investment intentions in the coal industry
- 04.2.5 Development of internationally comparable coal statistics
- 04.2.6 Monitoring of the application of the International Codification Systems for Medium- and High-rank Coals

Sub-programme 04.3: Selected technical and economic issues of underground coal mining

Programme elements

- 04.3.1 Technical progress in underground mining processes
- 04.3.2 Economic and organizational issues of underground mining
- 04.3.3 Measures to improve mine safety in underground extraction of coal
- 04.3.4 Development of more efficient mining systems

Sub-programme 04.4: Selected technical and economic issues of opencast coal mining

Programme elements

- 04.4.1 Technical progress in opencast mining processes
- 04.4.2 Economic and organizational issues of opencast mining
- 04.4.3 Environmental aspects of opencast mining

Sub-programme 04.5: Coal research and development issues

Programme elements

- 04.5.1 Review of the activities of national mining research institutes
- 04.5.2 Introduction of computers for process control and data processing in mines
- 04.5.3 Problems of coal extraction at great depth

Sub-programme 04.6: Coal preparation and utilization

Programme elements

- 04.6.1 New coal utilization technologies
- 04.6.2 Utilization of low-calorific-value fuels
- 04.6.3 Preparation of a new international classification of coals
- 04.6.4 Environmental aspects of coal utilization
- 04.6.5 Promotion of wider use of coal in industry and other sectors

PROGRAMME 05 - ENVIRONMENTAL AND WATER PROBLEMS

Authority: Programme of work of the Senior Advisers to ECE Governments on Environmental and Water Problems, approved by the Senior Advisers at their third session (ECE/ENVWA/14, paras. 72-81 and Annex V).

Sub-programme 05.1: Policy and management issues

Programme elements

- 05.1.1 Current environmental and water-management trends and policies in ECE countries
- 05.1.2 Environment and economics
- 05.1.3 Environmental and water statistics
- 05.1.4 Legal instrument on transboundary impacts of industrial accidents

Sub-programme 05.2: Environmental impact assessment

Programme elements

- 05.2.1 Frameworks and methodology of environmental impact assessment
- 05.2.2 Convention on environmental impact assessment in a transboundary context

Sub-programme 05.3: Air pollution problems

Programme elements

- 05.3.1 Information on activities of the Executive Body for the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution
- 05.3.2 Selected issues of air pollution

Sub-programme 05.4: Low-waste technology and waste management

Programme elements

- 05.4.1 Evaluation of energy- and resource-saving technologies in pulp and paper industry
- 05.4.2 Reduction, replacement, recovery, recycling and re-utilization of industrial wastes
- 05.4.3 Low-waste technology and environmentally sound products
- 05.4.4 Policies and strategies for integrated waste management

Sub-programme 05.5: Water management

Programme elements

- 05.5.1 Ecosystems approach to water management
- 05.5.2 Waste-water management
- 05.5.3 Water-quality objectives and criteria
- 05.5.4 Protection of inland waters against eutrophication
- 05.5.5 Responsibility and liability regarding transboundary water pollution
- 05.5.6 Framework convention on the protection and use of transboundary water courses and international lakes
- 05.5.7 Prevention and control of water pollution from fertilizers and pesticides

Sub-programme 05.6: Flora, fauna and their habitats

Programme elements

- 05.6.1 Assessment of the status of rare, endangered and migratory species in Europe
- 05.6.2 Study of the relationship between economic activities and conservation of flora, fauna and their habitats

PROGRAMME 06 - ELECTRIC POWER

Authority: Programme of work of the Committee on Electric Power, approved by the Committee at its forty-eighth session (ECE/EP/80, para. 41 and Annex I)

Sub-programme 06.1: Medium- and long-term prospects for electric power

Programme elements

06.1.1 Electric power situation, prospects and policies in the ECE region

Sub-programme 06.2: Electric power generation

Programme elements

06.2.1 Nuclear power stations
06.2.2 Fossil fuel power stations
06.2.3 Hydroelectric schemes
06.2.4 Combined production of electric power and heat

Sub-programme 06.3: Problems of planning and operating large power systems

Programme elements

06.3.1 International interconnections
06.3.2 Maps of high-voltage electric power networks
06.3.4 Electric power systems planning and operation

Sub-programme 06.4: Rational use of electricity, and electricity distribution outside the major urban areas

Programme elements

06.4.1 Rational use of electricity

Sub-programme 06.5: Electric power and the environment

Programme elements

06.5.1 Impact on the environment of electric power stations
06.5.2 Methods of purifying waste water from thermal power stations
06.5.3 Implication of climate change for electricity supply
06.5.4 Perception of environmental impact by overhead power lines

Sub-programme 06.6: Electric power statistics and information

Programme elements

06.6.1 Publication of the Annual Bulletin of Electric Energy Statistics for Europe
06.6.2 Selected statistical issues
06.6.3 Exchange of information on international standardization
06.6.4 Co-ordination of glossaries on electric power

PROGRAMME 07 - GAS

Authority: Programme of work of the Committee on Gas, approved by the Committee at its thirty-sixth session (ECE/GAS/97, paras. 45-46 and Annex I)

Sub-programme 07.1: Medium and long-term prospects

Programme elements

07.1.1 Future role of gas in meeting energy requirements
07.1.2 Long-term development of the LPG industry

Sub-programme 07.2: Current developments in gas, including international trade

Programme elements

07.2.1 Recent developments in gas availabilities and consumption
07.2.2 Intraregional trade in gas
07.2.3 Interregional trade in gas
07.2.4 Co-operation in the field of gas research
07.2.5 Interconnections and extension of gas networks in Europe

Sub-programme 07.3: Gas resources

Programme elements

07.3.1 Geological and geophysical methods of prospecting for natural gas
07.3.2 Exploitation of natural gas, stimulation and enhanced recovery techniques
07.3.3 Assessment of natural gas resources

Sub-programme 07.4: Gas transport and storage

Programme elements

07.4.1 Construction, management and maintenance of gas transport systems
07.4.2 Offshore technology and sea pipelines
07.4.3 Underground gas storage
07.4.4 Large-scale storage of LPG

Sub-programme 07.5: Gas use and distribution

Programme elements

07.5.1 Gas saving and rational use
07.5.3 Efficiency of gas-utilizing appliances and equipment
07.5.4 Use of gases as motor-vehicle fuel
07.5.5 New developments in gas distribution systems and operational practices
07.5.6 Gasification of solid fuels and waste production and use of substitute natural gas
07.5.7 Use of computers in the gas industry

Sub-programme 07.6: Gas statistics and information

Programme elements

07.6.1 Publication of the Annual Bulletin of Gas Statistics and of other selected statistical gas issues

Sub-programme 07.7: Gas industry and the environment

Programme elements

07.7.1 Environmental aspects of the gas industry

PROGRAMME 08 - HOUSING, BUILDING AND PLANNING

Authority: Programme of work of the Committee on Housing, Building and Planning, approved by the Committee at its fiftieth session (ECE/HBP/76, paras. 66-73 and Annex II).

Sub-programme 08.1: Integrated settlements policies and strategies

Programme elements	
08.1.2	Human settlements situation and related current trends and policies
08.1.2	Comprehensive policies for renewal and modernization of human settlements
08.1.3	Human settlements problems in southern Europe
08.1.4	Planning for international tourism

Sub-programme 08.2: Urban and regional planning

Programme elements	
08.2.1	Promotion of international co-operation in the field of urban and regional research
08.2.3	Planning for recreation and leisure areas
08.2.5	Effectiveness of settlement planning
08.2.6	Impact of technological change on urban and regional development (technopoles)

Sub-programme 08.3: Housing policies

Programme elements	
08.3.1	Housing forecasting and programming
08.3.2	Tools and methodologies for elaborating effective housing policies
08.3.3	Socio-economic aspects of housing modernization policies
08.3.4	Distributional aspects of housing and taxation policies

Sub-programme 08.4: Building

Programme elements	
08.4.1	Building technology
08.4.2	Energy conservation in buildings
08.4.3	Promotion of international trade in construction products
08.4.4	International harmonization of the technical content of building regulations
08.4.5	Building pathology and prevention of disorders
08.4.6	Construction in seismic regions

Sub-programme 08.5: Human settlements statistics

Programme elements	
08.5.1	Development of human settlements statistics

PROGRAMME 09 - INLAND TRANSPORT

Authority: Programme of work of the Inland Transport Committee, approved by the Committee at its fifty-second session (ECE/TRANS/81, paras. 248-252 and Add.1)

Sub-programme 09.1: Transport perspectives

Programme elements	
09.1.1	Review of general trends with regard to transport development and transport policy
09.1.2	Analysis of specific transport economic issues
09.1.3	Development of transport in the Mediterranean Region

Sub-programme 09.2: Transport infrastructure

Programme elements	
09.2.1	Road infrastructure
09.2.2	Rail transport infrastructure
09.2.3	Inland waterway infrastructure
09.2.4	Linking of the European transport network to that of other regions

Sub-programme 09.3: Transport vehicles and vessels

Programme elements	
09.3.1	Harmonization and improvement of regulations and recommendations for road vehicles
09.3.2	Arrangements for the elimination of technical barriers to international trade of motor vehicles and their equipment and parts
09.3.3	Harmonization and improvement of standards for inland navigation vessels

Sub-programme 09.4: Transport operations and facilitation

Programme elements	
09.4.1	Harmonization of requirements concerning international road transport and facilitation of its operations
09.4.2	Harmonization of requirements concerning international railway transport and facilitation of its operations
09.4.3	Harmonization of requirements concerning international inland waterway transport and facilitation of its operations, including the study of legal provisions
09.4.4	Harmonization of requirements concerning more than one mode of transport
09.4.5	Promotion of combined and multimodal transport
09.4.6	Harmonization of regulations and standards relating to the international transport of perishable foodstuffs and facilitation of its operations

Sub-programme 09.5: Transport safety

Programme elements	
09.5.1	Road transport safety
09.5.2	Rail transport safety
09.5.3	Inland water transport safety
09.5.4	Safety requirements for the construction, maintenance and handling of containers and piggyback transport equipment

Sub-programme 09.6: Transport of dangerous goods

Programme elements	
09.6.1	Establishment and up-dating of general rules for the transport of dangerous goods within the framework of the Economic and Social Council's Committee of Experts
09.6.2	Regulations on the transport of dangerous goods by road, rail, inland waterways and combined transport

Sub-programme 09.7: Transport aspects of energy saving and environmental protection

Programme elements	
09.7.1	Promotion of economy and efficiency in transport
09.7.2	Impact of transport infrastructure and operations on the environment including pollution and noise

Sub-programme 09.8: Transport statistics and information

Programme elements	
09.8.1	Development of internationally comparable and agreed standards including methods of collection and definitions, concerning inland transport and road traffic accident statistics
09.8.2	Publication of the Annual Bulletin of Transport Statistics for Europe
09.8.3	Publication of Statistics of Road Traffic Accidents in Europe
09.8.4	Publication of the results of the road traffic censuses
09.8.5	Periodical circulation of selected transport information
09.8.6	Harmonization of transport statistics in Europe
09.8.7	Publication of an annual bulletin on transport in Europe

Sub-programme 09.9: Facilitation of movement and transport of disabled persons

Programme elements	
09.9.1	Road transport aspects
09.9.2	Rail transport aspects
09.9.3	Inland water transport aspects

PROGRAMME 10 - SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Authority: Programme of work of the Senior Advisers to ECE Governments on Science and Technology, approved by the Senior Advisers at their seventeenth session (ECE/SC.TECH/37, paras. 63-64 and Annex I).

Sub-programme 10.1: Medium- and long-term perspectives in science and technology

Programme elements

10.1.1 Science and technology trends in the region and in selected sectors

Sub-programme 10.2: Current developments in science and technology policies

Programme elements

10.2.1 Review of changes in national policies, priorities and institutions, and international co-operation

10.2.2 Evaluation of R and D activities

10.2.3 The role of forecasting in the formulation of science and technology policies

Sub-programme 10.3: Transfer of technology

Programme elements

10.3.1 Manual on licensing procedures

Sub-programme 10.4: Selected issues in science and technology

Programme elements

10.4.1 Inventory of existing safety guidelines in biotechnology

10.4.2 Technology for predicting earthquakes

PROGRAMME 11 - ECONOMIC PLANS, PROGRAMMES AND PERSPECTIVES

Authority: Programme of work of the Senior Economic Advisers to ECE Governments, approved by the Senior Advisers at their twenty-fifth session (ECE/EC.AD/34, paras. 51-57 and Annex)

Sub-programme 11.1: Exchange of information on medium- and long-term economic development

Programme elements

11.1.1	Exchange of information on the medium- and long-term development of national economies
11.1.2	Exchange of information on medium- and long-term plans, programmes and projections

Sub-programme 11.2: Long-term projections and perspectives

Programme elements

11.2.1	Growth conditions in the period 1991-1995 and their long-term implications
11.2.2	Specialized long-term macro-economic data base and further development of the SEM system of macro-economic models

Sub-programme 11.3: Selected medium- and long-term economic issues

Programme elements

11.3.1	Trends and factors in the development of personal and collective services and their impact on economic growth
11.3.2	International trade and structural changes - interregional and intraregional trends of development
11.3.3	Structural changes in employment, labour productivity and working patterns and their impact on economic growth
11.3.4	Sustainable economic development

PROGRAMME 12 - STATISTICS

Authority: Programme of work of the Conference of European Statisticians, approved by the Conference at its thirty-seventh session (ECE/CES/34, para. 130 and Annex I).

Sub-programme 12.1: Regional statistical co-operation

Programme elements

12.1.1 Review and promotion of co-ordination of statistical work in the ECE region

Sub-programme 12.2: Organization and operation of statistical services

Programme elements

12.2.1 Use of computers for statistical purposes and design and development of statistical information systems

12.2.2 Methodological issues in the collection, processing, dissemination and analysis of statistical data

12.2.3 Other issues in the organization and operation of statistical services

12.2.4 Use of registers in national statistical offices

Sub-programme 12.3: Methodological development and harmonization of economic statistics

Programme elements

12.3.1 Development and linking of SNA and MPS national accounts and balances systems

12.3.2 Promotion of publication and dissemination of internationally comparable statistics on production, national income, productivity and purchasing power parities (ICP)

12.3.3 Statistics of the distribution of income of households

12.3.4 Development and harmonization of statistical nomenclatures relating to economic activities and goods and services

12.3.5 Price and quantity statistics

12.3.6 Agricultural statistics

12.3.7 General energy statistics

12.3.8 Statistics of engineering industries and automation

12.3.9 Transport statistics

12.3.10 Statistics of services

Sub-programme 12.4: Methodological development and harmonization of social and demographic statistics

Programme elements

12.4.1 Framework for the integration of social and demographic statistics

12.4.2 Development and harmonization of statistical nomenclatures in the field of social and demographic statistics

12.4.3 Co-ordination of selected social and demographic statistics within the FSDS and with national accounts and balances

12.4.4 Population and housing censuses

12.4.5 Labour force statistics

12.4.6 Human settlements statistics

12.4.7 Statistics and indicators on the role and situation of women
12.4.8 Migration statistics
12.4.9 Demographic projections
12.4.10 Fertility surveys

Sub-programme 12.5: Methodological development and harmonization of environment and related statistics

Programme elements

12.5.1 Development of concepts, definitions and classifications in individual areas of environment statistics
12.5.2 Development of an international environmental data service
12.5.3 Methodological problems of environment statistics
12.5.4 Frameworks for environment statistics

Sub-programme 12.6: Statistical support for ECE publications, studies and projects

Programme elements

12.6.1 Publication of statistical bulletins
12.6.2 Support for the statistical work of other ECE Principal Subsidiary Bodies (including support for the publication of statistical bulletins by other ECE Principal Subsidiary Bodies)
12.6.3 Provision of statistical information for ECE studies and projects
12.6.4 Substantive support for statistical activities financially supported by UNDP

PROGRAMME 13 - STEEL

Authority: Programme of work of the Steel Committee, approved by the Committee at its fifty-seventh session (ECE/STEEL/67, paras. 70-73 and Annex I).

Sub-programme 13.1: Long-term trends and prospects in the iron and steel industry

Programme elements

13.1.1 Long-term prospects in the iron and steel industry

Subprogramme 13.2: Current developments and medium-term prospects in the iron and steel industry, including international trade

Programme elements

13.2.1 Short-term developments and prospects in the steel industry and the steel market

13.2.2 Studies of national developments in the iron and steel industry

Subprogramme 13.3: Economic and technological issues in the iron and steel industry

Programme elements

13.3.1 Technical and economic aspects of the manufacture and application of coated steel products

13.3.2 Producers' and users' metallurgical requirements in the welding of steel products

Subprogramme 13.4: Environmental and resource issues in the iron and steel industry

Programme elements

13.4.1 Protection against air and water pollution and the utilization of by-products of the iron and steel industry

13.4.2 Steel product quality and maximum utilization of scrap

Subprogramme 13.5: Iron and steel statistics

Programme elements

13.5.1 Development of steel statistics

13.5.2 Publication of steel statistics

13.5.3 Statistics on iron and steel scrap

PROGRAMME 14 - TIMBER

Authority: Programme of work of the Timber Committee, approved by the Committee at its forty-seventh session (ECE/TIM/49, paras. 66-83 and Annex I)

Sub-programme 14.1: Medium- and long-term trends, prospects and policies for forestry and forest products

Programme elements

14.1.1 Appraisal of long-term timber trends and prospects

14.1.2 Medium-term trends in industry structure and markets in specific forest products sectors

14.1.3 Trends, prospects and policies in forestry and forest products in southern Europe

Sub-programme 14.2: Current forest products market developments and short-term prospects, including international trade

Programme elements

14.2.1 Review of production, trade, consumption and prices of forest products

Sub-programme 14.3: Forest technology, management and training

Programme elements

14.3.1 Silvicultural operations and general management aspects

14.3.2 Wood harvesting and transport

14.3.3 Vocational training, applied ergonomics, occupational safety and health

Sub-programme 14.4: Economic, technological and managerial issues for the wood-working industries

Programme elements

14.4.1 Development and introduction of new technologies and management methods in the wood-working industries, including furniture

14.4.2 Development of new products, markets and applications for forest products

14.4.3 Energy conservation and self sufficiency in the mechanical wood-processing industries

Sub-programme 14.5: Environmental and resource conservation issues

Programme elements

14.5.1 Quantification and evaluation of the environmental benefits of forests

14.5.2 Economic, silvicultural, ecological and technical problems of the rational use of forest biomass

14.5.3 Implications of air pollution and other damage to forests for wood supply and markets

14.5.4 Information exchange on occurrences of sudden and severe damage to forests

Sub-programme 14.6: Forest and forest products economics and statistics

Programme elements

14.6.1	Publication of the Timber Bulletin
14.6.2	Selected problems of economics and statistics of forestry and forest products
14.6.3	Forest resource analysis
14.6.4	Transfer of economic and statistical methods and experience in the forest and forest products sector

PROGRAMME 15 - TRADE

Authority: Programme of work of the Committee on the Development of Trade, approved by the Committee at its thiry-eighth session (ECE/TRADE/167, para. 68 and Annex I).

Sub-programme 15.1: Analysis and review of recent and prospective trade trends, policies and problems

Programme elements

15.1.1 Review of recent and prospective trends, policies and problems affecting intraregional trade, including financing and compensation trade

15.1.2 Review of trade and economic co-operation agreements including a Register of such agreements

Sub-programme 15.2: Identification and examination of all kinds of obstacles to the development of trade among ECE member countries, especially in east-west trade, giving due attention to measures for the promotion of trade and diversification of its structure

Programme elements

15.2.1 All kinds of obstacles to the development of trade

15.2.2 Promotion and diversification of east-west trade

Sub-programme 15.3: The development and transparency of market information, marketing and financing techniques and improved business contacts

Programme elements

15.3.1 Information relevant to the promotion of trade and industrial co-operation

15.3.2 East-west business opportunities and trade prospects

Sub-programme 15.4: Promotion of trade through industrial co-operation

Programme elements

15.4.1 Review of recent and prospective trends and policies affecting industrial co-operation

15.4.2 Consideration of means for creating favourable conditions for industrial co-operation

Sub-programme 15.5: International trade procedures, contract practices, trade aspects of regulatory and standardizing activities and commercial arbitration

Programme elements

15.5.1 Facilitation of international trade procedures including documentation, trade data elements and automatic data interchange

15.5.2 Preparation and revision of Guides and General Conditions relating to contracts for international commercial transactions

15.5.3 Standardization and related activities

15.5.4 International commercial arbitration

Sub-programme 15.6: Trade problems of the member countries of the ECE which are developing from the economic point of view

Programme elements

15.6.1 Review of trade problems specific to these member countries and consideration of action regarding of identified problems

15.6.2 Measures to improve trade promotion efforts of these member countries

ANNEX II

PROGRAMME 01. - POLICY AND CO-ORDINATION OF THE WORK OF THE COMMISSION AS A WHOLE

Authority: Terms of reference of the Commission; relevant resolutions and other decisions of the Economic and Social Council and the Commission.

SUB-PROGRAMME 01.1: ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMISSION AS A WHOLE AND PROGRAMME OF WORK AND PRIORITIES

01.1.1 Review and guidance of the activities of the Commission as a whole: evaluation, co-ordination and formulation of the programme of work

Description: At its annual sessions the Commission will consider its work as a whole; review and evaluate its own activity as well as that of its subsidiary bodies; guide the policy orientation, co-ordination and planning of the work carried out by the subsidiary bodies under its auspices; and formulate and approve its programme of work.

Work accomplished and to be undertaken: The Commission performs this function with the assistance of its Sessional Committee as appropriate, by considering at its annual sessions the reports of its subsidiary bodies on their work and the Executive Secretary's reports on the implementation of its relevant resolutions and decisions. The Commission considers and approves annually its programme of work for the following year and endorses in principle, subject to review at the following session, its long-term programme of work covering the next five years. The policy guidance given by the Commission, including measures for co-ordination, concentration and integration of all activities carried out under the Commission's auspices, is embodied in its resolutions and other decisions to be implemented, as appropriate, by member Governments, by the Commission's subsidiary bodies and by its secretariat.

Duration: Continuing.

01.1.2 The work and future activities of the Commission

Description: [To be completed as may be necessary]

01.1.3. Concentration and integration of the programme of work of the Commission

Description: At its annual sessions the Commission will examine its programmes of work with a view to their concentration and integration, and will decide on which aspect of the programmes of work will be considered in greater detail at the following session.

Work to be undertaken: [To be completed as may be necessary]

Duration: Continuing.

01.1 4 Economic co-operation in the Mediterranean in the light of the Final Act of the CSCE

Description: The Commission and its Principal Subsidiary Bodies pay particular attention to projects and activities of interest to the Mediterranean countries of the ECE region, bearing in mind the relevant provisions of the Final Act and other Concluding Documents of the CSCE. The Executive Secretary co-operates with the secretariats of the Economic Commission for Western Asia and the Economic Commission for Africa and other relevant United Nations bodies and pursues contacts with all Mediterranean countries not members of the Commission, on subjects within the competence of the ECE of common interest to the Mediterranean countries; the Commission's subsidiary bodies identify areas of interest, particularly in the field of transport, for economic co-operation in the Mediterranean within the framework of over-all ECE activities and the Commission's programme of work.

Work to be undertaken: [To be completed as may be necessary]

Duration: Continuing

SUB-PROGRAMME 01.2: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS, PROBLEMS AND PROSPECTS IN THE ECE REGION

01.2.1. Review of economic developments, problems and prospects in the ECE region

Description: At its annual sessions the Commission will review economic developments, problems and prospects in the ECE region.

Work accomplished and to be undertaken: The annual economic survey, economic bulletin and other special studies and statistical bulletins prepared and published by the secretariat are made available to the Commission for this annual review.

Duration: Continuing

01.2.2. Population

Description: In accordance with the provisions of decision G (40), the Executive Secretary carries out work in the field of population, within existing resources, and maintains collaboration with the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) for the implementation of the relevant recommendations of regional meetings of experts on population convened periodically, but not more than every two years, in co-operation with UNFPA. These meetings aim to provide consultations amongst Governments and the dissemination and exchange of information on population problems and policies in the ECE region.

Work accomplished and to be undertaken: Collaboration with UNFPA is maintained through projects dealing, respectively, with economic and social implications of aging, population and development in southern Europe, integration of population and socio-economic policies and promotion of

fertility and family surveys in the ECE region. Funding for these projects is provided by UNFPA.

Duration: Continuing.

SUB-PROGRAMME 01.3: RESOLUTIONS BEARIN[illegible]THE WORK OF THE COMMISSION ADOPTED BY THE EC[illegible]IC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL AND THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

01.3.1 Review and follow-up of resolutions adopted by the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly bearing on the work of the Commission

Description: At its annual sessions, the Commission will review the resolutions and decisions of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly which have a bearing on its work and will decide on the action to be taken by it in the light of the provisions of those resolutions and decisions.

Work accomplished and to be undertaken: The Commission undertakes this review on the basis of the Executive Secretary's note in which he brings to the Commission's attention the resolutions and decisions bearing on the work of the Commission which were adopted by the Economic and Social Council and by the General Assembly during the period since the previous session of the Commission, and the relevant work under way.

Duration: Continuing

01.3.2 The Commission's contribution to the follow-up of the 1985 World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women

Description: In accordance with decision J (40), and taking into consideration the results of the 1985 World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women, and other relevant resolutions and decisions of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly, the Executive Secretary will continue to assess developments with respect to the economic role of women in the ECE region in conjunction with other research activities of the secretariat, taking into account the roles and responsibilities of the regional commissions in developing and implementing the system-wide, medium- term plan for women and development and the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women.

Work accomplished: The secretariat has undertaken a time use study of women in the ECE region, with the financial support of INSTRAW. The Conference of European Statisticians has also continued its work on statistical indicators for women (see also programme element 12.4.7).

Work to be undertaken: [To be completed as may be necessary]

Duration: Continuing.

01.3.3. The Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development

Description: By its resolution 42/187 the General Assembly welcomed the Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development and decided to transmit the Report to all Governments and to the governing bodies of the organs, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system, and invited them to take account of the analysis and recommendations contained in the Report in determining their policies and programmes. By its resolution 44/228 the General Assembly decided to convene a United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, to take place in Brazil in 1992.

Work accomplished: In accordance with decision A (43), the Executive Secretary undertook a review of the ECE's programmes and activities aimed at contributing to sustainable development, including the cross-sectoral and interdisciplinary aspects thereof. This review was considered by an ad hoc meeting of experts in October 1988.

By its decision G (44) the Commission welcomed the progress made in the preparations for the regional conference at ministerial level to be held in Bergen (Norway) from 8-16 May 1990 and requested that the agreed co-operation between the Government of Norway and ECE should continue on the further preparations, including, within existing resources and without prejudice to ongoing activities of ECE, the convening in Geneva of a session of the Preparatory Committee for the conference. The second session of the Preparatory Committee was held in Geneva, within the framework of ECE in February 1990. The Preparatory Comittee decided, inter alia, that the results of the Bergen Conference will constitute the ECE region's contribution to the 1992 Conference in Brazil.

Work to be undertaken: [To be completed as may be necessary]

Duration: Three years (1988-1990).

01.3.4. Climate change

Description: In its resolution 43/53 the General Assembly recognized climate change as a common concern of mankind, and called on all relevant organizations and programmes of the United Nations system to support the work of the joint WMO/UNEP Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

Work accomplished: The secretariat has participated in the first and second sessions of the IPCC, the second session of the IPCC Working Group III on Response Strategies, and the second session of the IPCC Working Group II on Impacts. Substantive issues related to climate change have been taken up by a number of Principal Subsidiary Bodies (see E/ECE/1207).

Work to be undertaken: [To be completed as may be necessary]

Duration [To be completed as may be necessary]

SUB-PROGRAMNME 01.4: CO-OPERATION WITH OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

01.4.1. Review of the Commission's co-operation with other United Nations bodies

Description: At its annual sessions the Commission will review its activities in support of and its contribution to other United Nations programmes, especially those of UNCTAD, UNDP, UNEP, UNFPA and INSTRAW, as well as of the other regional commissions. It will also consider matters relating to its co-operation with other United Nations bodies including the specialized agencies such as ILO, FAO, UNESCO, WHO and UNIDO, as well as IAEA. Special attention will be paid to problems of the member countries of the ECE which are developing from the economic point of view as part of the Commission's contribution to the global programmes and objectives of the United Nations aiming at economic development.

Work accomplished and to be undertaken: The Commission carries out this review annually on the basis of the Executive Secretary's report on the participation of such organizations and programmes in the Commission's work: on the Commission's own contribution to the programmes of these organizations; and on the secretariat's co-operation with the secretariats of these organizations, including the secretariats of the other regional commissions.

Duration: Continuing

01.4.2. Review of the Commission's co-operation with other international organizations

Description: At its annual sessions the Commission will review its activities related to co-operation with other intergovernmental organizations such as the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance and the European Economic Community, and with international non-governmental organizations participating in the work of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies.

Work accomplished and to be undertaken: The Commission undertakes this review annually on the basis of the Executive Secretary's report on the relevant activities arising out of the participation of such organizations and their secretariats in, and the contribution they make to, the work of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies.

Duration: Continuing

* * *

UNITED
NATIONS

E

Economic and Social
Council

GENERAL

E/ECE/1223
2 April 1990

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

Forty-fifth session
18-27 April 1990
Item 2 (f) of the provisional agenda

WORK OF THE PRINCIPAL SUBSIDIARY BODIES OF THE COMMISSION

(Senior Advisers to ECE Governments on Environmental and Water Problems)

Communication from the Government of the USSR

Note by the secretariat

The attached letter and annex thereto are circulated as an official document of the Commission's forty-fifth session in accordance with the request contained therein.

GE.90-21106/3246a

Permanent Mission of the USSR to the United Nations Office
and Other International Organizations at Geneva

Geneva, 21 March 1990

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you as follows:

1. During the discussions that took place at the third session of the Senior Advisers to ECE Governments on Environmental and Water Problems (26 February - 2 March 1990), many delegations emphasized the need to take advantage of the opportunities offered by the major socio-economic changes taking place in certain ECE member countries to improve the state of the environment both in those countries and in the ECE region as a whole, in particular by tackling urgent transboundary ecological problems. The view was expressed that thought should be given to the role ECE might play in that regard.

2. Desiring to translate these ideas into practice, the delegation of the USSR proposed at the session to include in the work programme of the Senior Advisers a new programme element concerning the improvement of environmental management in the light of changing socio-economic conditions (ECE/ENVWA/14, para. 78). The proposed activity could be implemented by providing, on a voluntary basis, assistance to those ECE member countries in which major socio-economic changes are taking place with a view to the improved integration of other countries' experience into planning, decision-making and economic activities. It would heighten awareness of critical environmental problems and their most effective solutions among, inter alia, decision makers and programme planners/managers both in the public and in the co-operative and private sectors. The programme of co-operation could be implemented by the convening of workshops, when necessary, in the above-mentioned ECE member countries. The cost of organizing such undertakings would be borne largely by the host country.

3. The workshops would be open to all member countries of ECE and to international organizations taking part in its work, and would be held in accordance with the Commission's terms of reference and established practice within the framework of co-operation under the auspices of the Senior Advisers. Governments of member countries having significant experience in dealing with problems being tackled by the workshops could appoint highly-qualified experts/rapporteurs either through the ECE secretariat or directly (paying the corresponding costs). The functions of the experts/rapporteurs might for example, include:

(a) Preparation of basic documentation (for example, general reports) on the main topics of the workshop;

(b) Leading the discussion at the workshop itself;

Mr. G. Hinteregger
Executive Secretary
Economic Commission for Europe
United Nations

(c) Formulation of the workshop's conclusions and recommendations for submission to the Senior Advisers.

4. Appropriate assistance in the organization and convening of such workshops could be provided by the ECE secretariat. In this regard, Governments of interested ECE member countries could assist the secretariat as necessary by means of voluntary financial contributions or contributions in the form of services (by Government-appointed experts).

5. Workshop topics would be decided upon in the light of ECE experience in particular aspects of environmental management and the special interests of the organizing countries. They might, for example, include:

Advanced analytical methods used in formulating environmental protection policies and programmes;

Resolution of conflict situations in environmental protection matters and improved co-ordination of environmental management at the national, regional, local and sectoral levels;

Use of impact assessment and risk analysis techniques in decision-making;

Use of innovative economic methods to encourage environmental protection;

Natural resource inventory methods in environmental management;

Ways of enhancing the role and effectiveness of environmental protection bodies and services in various branches of the economy;

Legal and institutional measures to encourage participation by the public and by non-governmental organizations in environmental management planning and decision-making;

Improvement of mechanisms for ensuring accountability and compensation in the event of damage to the environment;

Ways and means of establishing and operating environment funds at the national and regional levels; and

Techniques for monitoring compliance with regulations concerning the discharge of pollutants.

6. If it is decided to begin implementation of this proposed programme of co-operation, the Soviet Union is prepared to consider the possibility of convening the first workshop in the USSR in 1990 or 1991. Should this programme prove successful, it might then be possible to consider extending it, for example, by sending groups of experts from ECE member countries to assess the effectiveness of various national programmes and/or projects dealing with urgent transboundary ecological problems in the ECE region.

7. In accordance with the decision taken by the Senior Advisers at their third session, the draft new programme element under consideration was

appended as annex VI to the report of the session (ECE/ENVWA/14) for information purposes and for a possible decision by the Economic Commission for Europe at its forty-fifth session in April 1990.

At the same time, as a constructive step to facilitate the adoption of a decision by ECE on this draft, the Senior Advisers considered that an elaborated proposal should be submitted to the Commission. A draft version of this elaborated proposal is annexed. We request that this letter, together with the annex, be circulated as an official document of the forty-fifth session of the Economic Commission for Europe.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

G. Smirnov
Deputy Permanent Representative

ELABORATED PROPOSAL BY THE DELEGATION OF THE USSR */

0.5.1.4 Improvement of environmental management in the light of changing socio-economic conditions

Description: The Senior Advisers will consider opportunities for providing assistance for the integration of environmental considerations in planning, decision-making and economic activities in the light of changing socio-economic conditions in certain ECE member countries and in the ECE region as a whole. The co-operative programme, to which countries would make their contributions on a voluntary basis, would respond in particular to relevant goals set forth in the Regional Strategy for Environmental Protection and Rational Use of Natural Resources (ECE/ENVWA/5, para. 86).

Work to be undertaken: Workshops will initially be held when necessary in order, inter alia, to improve the exchange of information and experience in specific areas of environmental management among governmental officials at different levels and experts from universities, academic circles, public and private enterprises.

Duration: Continuing.

---

*/ Prepared in accordance with the decision taken by the Senior Advisers to ECE Governments on Environmental and Water Problems at their third session (ECE/ENVWA/14, para. 79).

UNITED
NATIONS

E

Economic and Social
Council

GENERAL

E/ECE/1223/Add.1
19 April 1990

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

Forty-fifth session
18-27 April 1990
Item 2 (f) of the provisional agenda

WORK OF THE PRINCIPAL SUBSIDIARY BODIES OF THE COMMISSION

(Senior Advisers to ECE Governments on Environmental and Water Problems)

Communication from the Government of the USSR

Addendum

Note by the secretariat

The attached letter and annex thereto are circulated as an official document of the Commission's forty-fifth session in accordance with the request contained therein.

* * *

GE.90-21435/6063A

State Environmental Protection
Committee of the USSR
11 Nezhdanovoy Street
103009, MOSCOW

10 April 1990

Sir,

I am enclosing, for circulation as an official document of the forty-fifth session of the Economic Commission for Europe, proposals for the establishment of a centre and system for emergency environmental assistance in Europe, prepared in the light of the recommendations adopted by the Senior Advisers to ECE Governments on Environmental and Water Problems at their third session.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration,

(Signed) V.G. Sokolovsky,
First Deputy Chairman

Mr. G. Hinteregger
Executive Secretary
Economic Commission for Europe
United Nations

Centre and system for emergency environmental assistance in Europe

(Addendum to document ENVWA/R.34 of 24 January 1990)

Submitted by the delegation of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

Introduction

The Senior Advisers to ECE Governments on Environmental and Water Problems at their third session examined the USSR delegation's proposal (ENVWA/R.34 of 24 January 1990) for the establishment of a centre for emergency environmental assistance in Europe, which was taken into account in deciding upon the terms of reference of the ad hoc Working Group for the Elaboration of a Legal Instrument on Transboundary Impacts of Industrial Accidents (document ENVWA/CRP.3/Add.16, paras. 2 and 3).

In this connection, taking into account the nature of the questions raised in the course of the discussion at the session of the Senior Advisers and in an effort to flesh out the substance of this proposal with a view to its consideration by the Economic Commission for Europe at its forty-fifth session, document ENVWA/R.34 of 24 January 1990 is supplemented as follows.

I. Definitions

1.1. By emergency environmental assistance is meant the provision of immediate advisory services as well as practical help to assist in containing and mitigating the environmental impact of industrial accidents, */ provided by countries signatories of the international agreement in question to the country in which the industrial accident occurred and/or the country that experienced the transboundary effects of the accident which had a major environmental impact.

1.2. By industrial accident is meant an accident that occurs during a production process or during the storage, loading or transport of natural or processed products, as a result of which their release into the environment may have a major environmental impact, including transboundary effects.

1.3. By major environmental impact is meant damage to the health of human beings and to fauna and flora on a scale having a perceptible effect on the economy of a country or some of its regions and resulting in a considerable impoverishment of its genetic resources and the destruction of endemic and relict flora and fauna.

1.4. By system of emergency environmental assistance is meant the various specialized national services, companies, organizations, experts and international organizations which, by virtue of their prior voluntary commitments and co-ordination of their activities constitute an operational system for providing emergency environmental assistance either in the form of advice or directly by embarking upon work to contain and mitigate the environmental impact of industrial accidents as well as to prevent them.

---

*/ With the exception of nuclear accidents, in respect of which assistance is provided under other special agreements (conventions).

1.5. By centre for emergency environmental assistance is meant a centre which has a small staff, modern computer and data processing equipment and special communications facilities for receiving urgent information concerning industrial accidents and making initial evaluations of their nature and which, on the basis of this information, enlists the services of their appropriate experts, services and international organizations from countries parties to the special international agreement for providing assistance in containing and mitigating the environmental impact of industrial accidents.